

# Village keeping water and sewer system

by MARIAN  
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**MADISON VILLAGE** - Council unanimously passed a resolution to keep ownership of the village water supply and sanitary sewer systems at the June 6 council meeting, following suspension of the three readings. The final decision was nearly two years in the making as council sought information and input.

"Right now we owe \$2,127,789 on loans for both upgrades and improvements to our water system, and our sanitary sewer system over the years," said Mayor Robert Lee.

The village has had talks with representatives of the Lake County Department of Utilities who maintained the village system had no monetary value. For that reason, LCDU would give not credit for the system and would charge the village water and sewer benefit fees of about \$2.7 million.

It was noted an engineering firm had appraised the system in 2008 at \$6 to \$7 million.

Lee said the village would have needed to take out loans to pay the \$2.7 million which would have cost about an additional \$1.2 million over 20 years.

Another issue was that the county did not want the village wastewater treatment plant, so the village would have had to pay for part of

the cost of running piping to the county plant on Dock Road at a cost of about \$1.75 million.

"Again, we couldn't pay that with a single check, so we'd have to take out a loan of almost \$1 million over a 30-year period," Lee said. "Then we'd also be responsible for paying for the abandonment of our wastewater treatment plant so that property could be vacated and used for a park or whatever."

The total cost to the village for transferring the water and sewer system to the county would have been \$8.9 million. The village residents, of course, would have had to shoulder that amount over the years.

For that reason, council decided the village could not afford to transfer the utility to the county. Rates were increased recently to help the village with necessary repairs, maintenance and upgrades as needed.

## In other business:

- Council suspended the three readings and passed an ordinance confirming appointments of Justin R. Nowakowski and Alex D. Gritton as part-time Madison Village patrolmen for a probationary period of 12 months, and declaring an emergency.

- Council approved \$27,000 for 50 new water meters, meter reading equipment, and compatible software (the current equipment

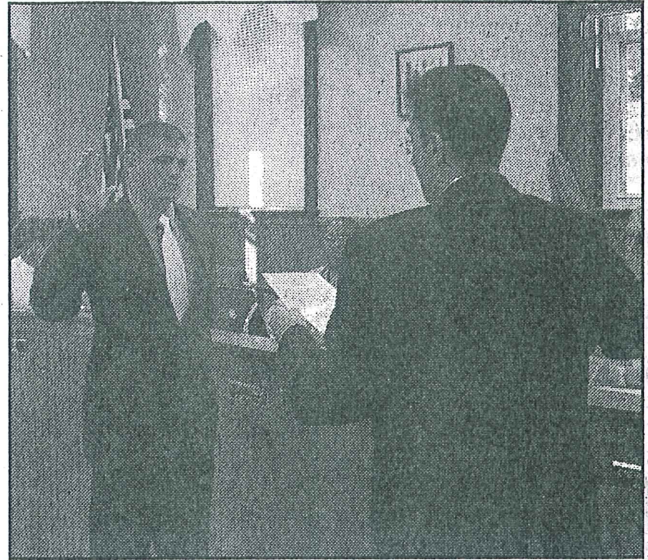


PHOTO BY MARIAN MCMAHON

**Madison Village Law Director Joseph P. Szeman swears in Justin R. Nowakowski as a part-time patrolman for the Madison Village Police Department at the June 6 Madison Village Council meeting. Ptl. Alex D. Gritton was working and unable to attend the meeting.**

is no longer available); and dispersal of Quality of Life Grant monies as \$2,500 to the Madison Historical Society and \$2,500 to the Madison Community Improvement Corporation.

- Mark Petersen and Erin Cicero addressed Madison Village Council to advise them of their efforts to obtain a grant to help save the Unionville Tavern from ruin. Information and the online website where people can vote can be found on the Madison Historical Society

website. (Also, see Lake County Tribune story "Couple works to try to preserve Old Tavern in Unionville.")

- Police Chief Dawn Shannon reported increased thefts from vehicles, most of which had been left unlocked. She advised residents not leave any, wallets, valuables or cash in their vehicles overnight and to always keep them locked.

The next regular council meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 20.

## Recycle electronics

**MADISON TOWNSHIP** - Bring old working or nonworking electronics and cell phones to the Madison Township Recycling Center next to Fire Station #2 at 1747 Hubbard Rd. on Saturday, June 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The township has teamed up with Cell Phones for Cancer, LLC to put on this drive. It will earn money for the recycled items and will be donating the proceeds to a local charity. The township put on the event last year and found it to be a success. Donors do not have to be Madison residents. There will be a small charge for monitors and televisions.